OR THE

STORY

OF THE

City and Country *Mouse*

NEWLY TRANSPOS'D.

IN A

DISCOURSE

BETWIXT

BAYS, JOHNSON, and *SMITH.*

The Fifth Edition.

LONDON,
Printed, and sold by *E. Mallet* next the Kings-Arms Tavern near *Fleet-bridg.* 1702.

The Mouſe grown a Rat; or a Diſcourſe betwixt Bays, Johnſon, *and* Smith.

JOHNSON. Mr. *Bays*, I eſteem it a great piece of Condeſcenſion in you, that you will admit us into your Company, after you have acquired ſuch vaſt Riches, and procured ſuch weighty Honours, and are ſet at ſuch a vaſt Diſtance from Men of our Quality.

Smith. Indeed, Mr. *Bays*, I have the ſame Apprehenſions; methinks you are grown like a lofty Oak overtopping the Underwood, and if you deign to caſt a Look downwards on us poor Shrubs, we muſt impute it more to your own good Nature than our Deſerts; we cannot expect from the high Pinnacle on which you are perch'd, you ſhould know us poor Mortals, by ſuch a Diſtance leſſened almoſt out of Sight.

Bays. Know you, quotha; I vow Gentlemen, I hardly know my ſelf; my mighty Bulk does even elevate and ſurprize, and all that, my own tranſcendent Fancy. But Gentlemen, I find you have no great Breeding, when you forget my Titles, and call me by the Name of *Bays*, which I went by 14 Years ago; howe-

ver you may call me what you pleaſe, at this Time I condeſcend to be familiar; I will lay my Grandeur aſide, and diſcourſe as formerly for an Hour or two.

Johnſon. We thank you Mr. *Bays*; but you know my Temper, I never paid Reſpect to Titles or Riches, but always eſteemed the Man for his own perſonal Merit, and the good Services he did his Country.

Smith. Pray Mr. *Bays*, let us know from your own Mouth, the Steps you took to mount into the Saddle of Preferment; for 'tis a Riddle to the thinking part of Mankind, how a Perſon of ſo little Merit as your ſelf, ſhould arrive to ſuch vaſt Profits and Honours.

Bays. I tell you, Sir, as ſoon as ever the Prince of *Orange* got to *St. James*'s, I came upon him ſwop with Abundance of Confidence my natural Talent, and quickly gave him to underſtand, that I was an honourable Squire.

Johnſon. This brings into my mind a Tetraſtick of *Alexander Nequams*, *Fol.* 55927. of his Works, *Vol.* 50.

Squiri ſquirentur, quocunq; ſub Axe videntur.
Knavi knavantur, quocunq; ſub Axe vagantur.
Ternio Squirorum Bully ſany, Rock Hellibrando.
Huffant & ſwaggerant cum Verbis, Enſe Botello.

But Mr. *Bays*, is Confidence a due Qualification for an Employment?

Bays. I vow the fineſt Thing in the whole World; but you know I was eſteemed a Man of great Wit, as big as an Elephant, upon the Account of my fine Story of the City and Country Mouſe.

Johnſon. If you are not foully belied, Mr. *Bays*, that Story was written by *Mat. Pr*——*r*, and you had only

ly the fathering of it. Nor was there ſo much Wit in it as you pretend to.

Bays. Not Wit, thou art a Fool: Tell me any thing in the Univerſe finer than theſe Lines.

A Milkwhite Mouſe, *Immortal and Unchang'd,*
Fed on ſoft Cheeſe, and o'er the Dairy rang'd;
Without unſpotted, innocent within;
She fear'd no Danger, for ſhe knew no Gin.

Come, Mr. *Johnſon*, you are a Poet; imitate them, imitate them preſently, off hand, off hand, without Heſitation.

Johnſon. I'le try.

A Milkwhite Rogue, *Immortal and Unhang'd,*
By Fate and Parliaments ſeverely bang'd;
Without a Saint, a Devil was within;
He fear'd all Danger, for he knew all Sin.

Bays. That's pretty well done, but not very civilly expreſt, conſidering my Quality.

Smith. Mr. *Bays*, you promiſed to lay Grandeur aſide, and diſcourſe freely without Exception; but pray Mr. *Bays*, how came it to paſs, ſince you roſe by the favour of the Muſes, that you did not prefer your Brethren of the Quill? I expected my ſelf to be at leaſt Scavenger to *Parnaſſus*, or one of the Grooms of the Chamber to *Apollo*.

Bays. Did I not ſerve my Brethren? Was I not the Man that abdicated *Dryden*, and crowned *Shadwel* with the Laurel? Did not I make my *Iriſh* Brother a Commiſſioner in one of the Publick Funds, and give him a Cuſtomers

Cuſtomers Place in the Country into the Bargain, only for writing a Ballad to the Laud and Praiſe of my Right Honourable Self?

Smith. This is your Crime Mr. *Bays*, to beſtow that upon undeſerving Sycophants, which is the Birthright of ſuch as have wrote and fought in the Service of their Country.

Bays. Thou art ſtill I find in the wrong Box, harping upon that dull unſonorous String of Merit: I tell thee Man, *Merit* is a Popiſh Doctrine, and ought to be baniſh'd the Court of a Proteſtant Prince; Doſt thou think I would ſuffer ſuch antiquated Coxcombs as Men of Merit and Virtue to ſcandalize the Court of my Prince, when it was in my power to keep 'em out? Doſt thou think that I would prefer theſe in the Cuſtoms, when I and Sir *Stephen* and the reſt of us had Footmen enough of our own to put in ſuch Places? But to proced, Did not I, when *Tom. Shadwel* died, ſplit the Office of Laureat, and divide it betwixt *Na. T*——, and *Tom. R*——?

Johnſon. This I think, Mr. *Bays*, was the firſt Treaty of Partition you ever entred into; and I can aſſure you, upon theſe Terms I ſhould have quitted my Pretenſions to the Laurel, rather than to have the Monarchy of *Parnaſſus* diſmember'd. I ſuppoſe Mr. *Bays*, 'twas you adviſed the ſplitting of the Office in the Tower, and ſo by degrees you grew Maſter of the Partition Art, to ſuch perfection, that at laſt you took upon you to adviſe the Partition of other peoples Countries.

Bays. Not a Word of that Pudding, but had the Parliament concurred with that bold Stroke, it had been a Glorious Enterprize.

Johnſon. They ſaid it was a thing unjuſt in its own Nature, and had they ſaid otherwiſe it would have been

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ſo notwithſtanding. But had they concur'd with the Project, I ſuppoſe your next Partition Job would have been the Partition of *England*; and having a Parliament for your turn, as you call it, it might have been ratified all Laws, Statutes and Acts of Settlement to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Bays. No; to tell you the truth, my Project upon *England* was quite defeated before that time; and to lead you into a diſcovery of what few or none yet underſtand, 'twas I contriv'd the Notion of a Conqueſt, tho midwiv'd into the World *in verbo Sacerdotis*: This Notion would have ſtood firm, if back'd with the forcible Argument of a Standing Army; but in both theſe great Points we miſcarried, in which, if we had ſucceeded I ſhould have told you a piece of my Mind.

Johnſon. We were beholden to my Name-ſake for that piece of Service; he knock'd your Conquering Biſhop quite out of the Saddle, laid him groveling on the Ground, and at once expos'd his Folly and inveterate Malice againſt our Conſtitution.

Bays. I wiſh we had made your Name-ſake Arch-Biſhop of *Canterbury* upon the Revolution, that he might have imploy'd his Pen in making Prayers for Faſt and Thankſgiving Days, whenever the Court had a mind to be godly, and not have continued to plague every body with his old Stories of what our Fore-fathers were and did: He's the ſtrangeſt Man in the Univerſe; a body can't break down a Pole or ſo of the Fence of our Laws, to make way to fatten our ſelves in the Paſture of Arbitrary Power, but he comes upon one ſwop with his Quarter ſtaff of *Magna Charta*, and lets fly all his Arrows of Liberty and Property in ones Chops; ſo that a Man can't be a little familiar or ſo with his Miſtriſs

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Constitution, but presently forsooth he is ready to indite one for a Rape: He pretends his Mistriss (an old weather-beaten Hag) is as handsom now as she was a thousand years ago, tho she stinks worse than Gunpowder, which thing I hate above all in the Universe, except Bullets.

Johnson. Mr. *Bays*, take it from me, had you made my Name-sake Arch-bishop of *Canterbury*, and allow'd him to sell Bishopricks, as you sold Places, he would have been the same Man: He's a mere *Inamorato*, and his Mistriss Constitution has a very faithful Lover of him, for whom he has suffer'd more than 50 that ride in their Coaches and six. I heard a Gentleman say in a publick Company some weeks ago, that this very Man had done more towards the Revolution than the Prince of *Orange*, and the Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Men that came over with him.

Bays. How can that be?

Johnson. If he had not with several others oppos'd the Tyranny of the late Reigns with the hazard of Life and Limb, there would have been no room for the Revolution: If the Tree of Arbitrary Power had not been continually shaken, it would have taken such fast Root, that it would have been immovable: If he had not set K. *James*'s Army against him, they would have devour'd the 14000 men for a Breakfast.

Smith. I fancy, Mr. *Bays*, in consideration of these his great and eminent Services, you took no notice of him upon the Revolution, as indeed you did not of all men of his Character; and yet at the same time, all the Riches and Honours you have acquir'd sprang from their good Services.

Bays.

Bays. Look ye, Gentlemen, you are not skill'd in Politicks, our Management is like the Peace of God, it passeth all Understanding: 'Tis no true Policy to reward Men of Merit: Am I bound to look upon the Stairs by which I ascend to the Garret of Honour? Did you ever dream that *Jacob* took his Ladder up into Heaven with him? No; the Reward of virtuous Actions is to have done them; and I would advise these men to stay till the Day of Judgment for a Reward. I cock up my Chin, look big, strut and hector whom I please; and if I look upon you meritorious Mortals, I think it is enough; but as for your Name-sake, Mr. *Johnson*, I reckon we have done well: Has he not a good Pension, a sufficient Reward for his Services?

Johnson. But how long was it before he had any thing? It was several Years e'er he was taken notice of, when worthless Sycophants, and men of slavish Principles, fed on the Fat of the Land.

Smith. And before he had any thing, he was attempted to be *De-Witted*: Because your Conquering Sparks could not knock his Arguments on head, they were resolv'd to beat out his Brains, that they might produce no more Reasons in defence of the Liberty's of our Country. But, Mr. *Bays*, do you really think the small Pension that Gentleman has is a sufficient Recompence for his Sufferings, and a Reward surable to the Merit of the most valuable Man of his Age?

Bays. Yes indeed, I think it sufficient: I must acknowledg it might have been better placed, had it been sooner; but we were then in a hurry, making our own Fortunes, and had not time to reward Men of his Character: And to tell you the truth of the business, I was always against it; for if he, or Men of his Kidney, came

into Favour, I, and Men of my Kidney, were certain to be in Disgrace; for there is as much difference betwixt us and them, as there is betwixt Light and Darkness.

Johnson. Indeed I have heard that the small Pittance that Gentleman got was by the Industry of Mr. Secretary *Trumbul*, which I then said was an ill Omen of his *Exit* from his Office; for I think him the only Secretary of State since the Revolution, that recommended a Sufferer to Royal Favour. We never expected a thing of that nature from my Ld *N*——, and Secretary *Trenchard* basely betray'd his Party, and sold 'em, as did your Right Honourable Self; and for the rest of 'em, I am altogether unacquainted with their Virtues.

Smith. You say, Mr. *Bays*, that Mr. *Johnson*'s Pension is a sufficient Reward for his Services: Pray, Sir, who will you make the Standard of Merit? Will you make Mrs. *Villers*, or the Foreigners in the *Irish* Grants? or will you make your self the Standard? If your self, according to the rule of proportion betwixt you and Mr. *Johnson*, you ought not at this time to have been advanced above the King's Livery: If the other, pray reckon Services, and see which way the Ballance enclines.

Bays. Look ye, Gentlemen, the King has the liberty of preferring whom he pleases; and if he will not advance such Men as you speak of, what's that to you or any body else?

Johnson. Mr. *Bays*, you must not make the King the Packhorse to bear the Load of your Iniquity; we have a greater Veneration for his Majesty, and are better assured of his Character than that comes to. If our King were a *Jew*, a *Turk*, an Infidel, Men so valuable and serviceable to their Country would not pass without a just Recompence: The Fault lies at your door who are

about

about him, who will not ſuffer the meritorious Actions of his beſt and braveſt Subjects to come to his knowledg; but you keep him a Stranger both to their Perſons and Merits.

Smith. Sir, if you had been juſt to Men of Merit, and to that Prince that has rais'd you to this Fortune and Grandeur, you would have made him acquainted with the Sufferings of ſuch Men as were in his Intereſt, and who were the very occaſion of his being King of *England.* Suppoſe his Majeſty had been adviſ'd, upon his coming to the Throne, to have eſtabliſhed ſome of the chief Patriots and Sufferers of this Kingdom, to have examined into the Merit of Men before they were advanc'd to Offices, and that no Man ſhould have Preferment that had not before ſerv'd his Country: Would not this have given him the juſt Title of a grateful Prince, and have ſecur'd his Government againſt the Attempts of his Enemies, when it was under the Management of his beſt Friends?

Johnſon. What Mr. *Smith* ſays is very true: Had our Government been in the hands of ſuch Men, his Majeſty had not been betrayed in his Deſign upon *Dunkirk*, nor had *Dixmude* been ſo treacherouſly loſt; but how the Devil that Fellow who ſurrender'd it came to die for it, when others have been prefer'd, I can't tell. Had theſe Men been in the Miniſtry, *Talmaſh*, with many other brave *Engliſh*-men, had never been ſacrific'd thro notorious Treachery; *Pointi* had not eſcap'd, nor the *Thoulon* Squadron got into *Breſt*.

Bays. I hear you with patience; proceed.

Johnſon. It's a Riddle to me, Mr. *Bays*, how the *French* King, who is an abominable Tyrant, ſhould be ſo faithfully ſerv'd, and that K. *William*, whoſe Govern-

ment is founded upon the moſt juſt and equitable Laws in the World, ſhould be betray'd in almoſt all the Deſigns he ever had for the good of our Realm. This certainly proceeds from what we were before ſpeaking of; and we muſt expect ſuch Events for the future, if ſuch a Management continues.

Smith. Mr. *Bays*, can you give me an Inſtance in one ſingle Ship, during the War, belonging to the *French* King, that was given up by its Commander, without a Blow? Have we not got what Ships we have taken from them by downright fighting? And how many have we had delivered up without ſtriking a ſtroke? Have they not run away by whole Fleets and Squadrons; and then have been acquitted by their own Gang, a Method of Trial you like very well?

Bays. Gentlemen, you are now got out of my Element, talk of any thing but Fighting, and I'll hearken to you. I am ſure I never betrayed the King in Battel; and as to what you ſay concerning the Preferment of Men of Merit, I muſt tell you, Gentlemen, you do not underſtand the Buſineſs of a Courtier, your fooliſh nice Honour and Conſcience is a bar to your Knowledg in that point. Now we Courtiers, when we are got into an Office, the firſt thing we do is to lay down the Methods by which we ſhall make our Fortunes; and for you to talk of rewarding Men in ones own prejudice is mere Nonſenſe. You remember, Mr. *Smith*, you ſpake to me for a Place in the Cuſtoms of 200 *l. per Annum*; you might as well have ask'd me to have given you 600 *l.* out of my Pocket, 'twas the very ſame thing: For Places at that time ſold at 3 years Purchaſe, and I had Cuſtomers enow for 'em.

Smith.

Smith. I find, Mr. *Bays*, the Piety of Courts and Camps is much alike; but if you design'd to serve Men of Merit after this manner, you would have done very honestly to have put forth a Proclamation, declaring, Whereas there were many Gentlemen in this our Kingdom of *England*, who had in the late Reigns suffered Imprisonments, pecuniary Fines, and other Punishments, for asserting the Liberties of *England*, and for opposing Popery and Arbitrary Government; so that the said Persons having been ruined in their Fortunes, and themselves and Families being in a necessitous Condition, do expect from this Government Rewards suitable to their great and eminent Services: Be it therefore declared by and with the Advice of Mr. *Bays*, and others the Evil Counsellors of this Kingdom, That henceforth the Persons aforesaid do give no further Attendance at Court, we being resolv'd never to admit them into Places of Profit or Trust under this Government. This Declaration, Mr. *Bays*, would have been very honest; for hereby they had known their Doom at once, and not have spent 13 or 14 years in a fruitless Attendance upon an ungrateful Court.

Bays. Why all this upon me, have not others done the like? Did not your Presbyterian Saints do the same thing? Did one of 'em all reward a Man of their own Party? Your Trustees for the *I*—— Forfeitures, who are most of 'em Whigs, did they carry one such Person to *Ireland* with them? Have they not made a Monopoly of that Business, and shared the Spoil amongst themselves and their Creatures?

Johnson. 'Tis true enough, Sir; but is this less a Crime, because all men are guilty of it? Had we Men of Probity and Honesty in eminent Posts and Offices, the

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Caſe would be otherwiſe; nor ſhould we have ſpent ſo many Millions in a War, and run the Nation ſo much in debt, to ſo very little purpoſe, that we find the Nation in a worſe Condition now than before the War.

Bays. That's nothing to me; I am ſure I have deſerved what I have got. How had your Mony been recoined, had it not been for my Project of a Paper Credit?

Johnſon. The Paper Credit, Mr. *Bays*, was a Child of another body's getting: 'Twas *Robbin Murray*'s Invention. 'Tis true, you brought it into the Houſe, and ſo it paſs'd for your own, when God knows you did not underſtand the Strength of that Project your ſelf; for had the Inventor been advis'd in the Management, inſtead of ſo many hundred Thouſand of Pounds loſs to the Nation in the circulating of thoſe Bills, they had been better than *Specie*. However, you got your Ends by 'em, you now ride in your Coach and ſix, and poor *Murray* is a Priſoner in the Fleet for a ſmall Debt.

Smith. Did you give *Murray* nothing for helping you to that famous Project? 'Twas the top of all your Performances.

Bays. Give him, quotha! not one Penny, I vow. 'Tis not common Prudence to reward ſuch Men; Mony makes 'em lazy: Being in want, and a Priſoner, will ſharpen his Fancy, and put an Edg upon his Contrivance. I hope to have as great Offers from him this Seſſions, which he would never have thought of, had his Fancy been dull'd by Plenty of Mony: Such Men are bound to work for us. 'Twas not his Invention, nor *Mordecai Abbot*'s putting of it into Form, 'twas my offering of it to the Houſe with a good Aſſurance did

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the business; and you know at that time I had a great Interest in the House of Commons: I could be guilty of any Crime, and then get a Vote pass'd in my favour.

Smith. I think, Mr. *Bays*, your Interest in that House did not hold long, you were forc'd at last to get your self remov'd: They began to run upon you at such a rate, that they e'en made you cry in the House, the first sign ever you gave of Grace.

Bays. Grace! no, I cried for mere Madness; for would it not vex one to be run upon at that rate, who but a Sessions or two before swayed the whole House? They were just like a Company of Birds upon a poor Owl: They teez'd me and vex'd me, and my Mouseship had not a Hole to creep into to secure me from the Stings of their Tongues. I remember one day in the heat of my political Fury, I took an occasion to swear in the House, and *Ned H.* immediately took me up for it, and presently they begun to bawl about Precedents, and sending me a Tower Rat into my Lord *Lucas*'s Trap. 'Twas high time, I think, to get my self remov'd; had I staid there, I had been worried to Death among 'em.

Smith. But that did not do; they reach'd you for all that; The Commons of *England* have a powerful long Arm.

Bays. Reach me, quotha! But to what purpose? I defy 'em all now; I amn't to be tried by a parcel of Fellows that send Men to the Pillory, and present Ballads and Common-Shoars. I could not chuse but laugh at the different Opinion of the two Houses: One House made me a Demi-God, whilst the other House made a mere Devil of me; and this difference I can make at any time, whenever I or my Reputation are in danger. Alack a day, we were no more for a War the last Sessi-

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ons, than we ſhould have been were we to have fought the Battel our ſelves, which you know we car'd for at no rate: However 'twas a good Amuſement to incenſe the Common unthinking People againſt the Parliament; for you find the Mob ſways the Ballance to which ſide ever they come: but did they know how they have all along been cullied by us, and have been wrought upon by us to clamour againſt whomſoever we pleaſe, only to ſecure us from being detected and puniſhed for embezeling the Nation's Money, they would ſerve us as the *Dutch* did the Great *De Wit*, or as they did the *Engliſh* at *Amboyna*.

Smith. Truly, Sir, you gain'd a wonderful Point, when you got the Mob to your ſide; but of all things, I wonder how you got ſuch a Party in the City, eſpecially among that ſort of People who had formerly been Haters of Monarchy, and the worſt Enemies to the Court of any Men in *England*. Pray, Mr. *Bays*, unfold this Riddle to us; for we think it a mighty turn of Politicks.

Bays. Gentlemen, to inſtruct you in the deep Myſteries of our Management, I'll acquaint you with this Trick of State: Do but conſider, that Intereſt governs the World, that it is the God to whom all the Mortals inhabiting the Terreſtrial Globe pay Obedience; and then you'l find what a powerful Inſtrument it is in the hand of one that knows how to make uſe of it. Intereſt will make men ſell their Country, betray their Poſterity, murder the Reputation of the beſt Men in *England*, and ſanctify the Villanies of the greateſt Offenders. We quickly found the blind ſide of the City Saints, and that they worſhip'd Intereſt as much as any men; hereupon we contriv'd to link them to our ſelves by the in-

tent Charms of Chequer and [illegible]
Publick Funds and Tallies: So we brought them as it were into the Government, and they were forced to clamour and bawl on our Side, whenever any of us were attacked in Parliament, or otherwise; for we took care to tell them, that whatever was said or done against us, was designed against the King; and that the Parliament meant not the punishing of us for Misdemeanors, but that they designed the Subversion of the Government, and Restoration of K. *James*: And so we branded all that opposed us with the infamous Titles of *Jacobites*, Men in a *French* Interest, and that had taken *French* Mony. Was not that a pretty Whim enough, when by this means we made the whole Mob of the Kingdom believe, That the best Men in the House of Commons had taken Money of Count *Tallard* the *French* Ambassador, when God knows, he had disposed of his Money long before that time to the Partitioners, who helped his Master to the Kingdom of *Spain*?

Johnson. Sir, it's a strange thing to me, how those Modern Whigs in the City should relinquish their Principles, and turn Enemies to the *English* Constitution, merely for the sake of eight or ten *per Cent.* for their Money.

Bays. Eight or ten *per Cent.* you talk now according to your Judgment: I'll give you one Instance of Trading with the Government. At a certain time the Victualling was much in Debt, and there being no Money in the Office to pay those that dealt with it, many of them were forced to sell their Office Warrants at 30 *per Cent.* more or less loss: Not long after that came into that Office a great Quantity of Salt Tallies, which, as I re-

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member, had 15 *per Cent.* allow'd to any one that would take them: Many poor Traders could not take them at this rate, and so were forced to sell them. In a short time after this, these Tallies were taken in at the Bank at their full value. Now do but make a Calculation of the Profit the Men made by buying these Office Warrants.

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By Profit of 70 *l.* in a 100, Warrant bought	30
By Profit in taking out the Tally	15
	45

So that you see the 70 *l.* is grown 115 *l.* before it came into the Bank, where it was better than Specie. A certain Brewer at this Juncture by this means got upwards of ten Thousand Pound, and is now a Member.

Smith. This is a very fine Trade indeed, Mr. *Bays* but pray how was that Office served at that Time? At this rate the Nation paid at least 50 *per Cent.* more than the Market Price; and so we have raised just as much more Money as we needed, if all the Offices in the Kingdom have been managed alike.

Bays. It's no matter for that: By this means we have got a Party to our selves, that will be assistant to us in any thing we do, be it never so much against the Interest of the Kingdom: They swear for us, lie for us, backbite and slander for us; they'l be *Jews*, *Turks*, *Heathens* or any thing else, provided we are so too. Look ye Gentlemen, the Cause must be supported, and this cannot be done without Numbers, and Numbers sufficient must be raised, cost what it will, otherwise we shall be destroyed by raskally Impeachments and Attainders

tainders. And I can assure you, Gentlemen, if I and some few more go that way, you'l find a great many more will follow; perhaps there is not one Commission in *England* clear. And would you be willing to see such another hanging Bout as that was in the *West*

Smith. Yes with all my Soul, of such men as you Those in the *West* suffered in a Good Cause, they died like Men in the Service of their Country; but these will die like Dogs for Sheep-stealing and Rapine. No, Mr. *Bays*, if the Nation do you Justice, and send you to make your Exit at *Hyde*-Park corner, I can tell you most of the honest People of *London* and *Westminster* will make a Holiday to wait upon you.

Bays. I don't care one Fart for them all; but by the way I must tell you I don't like dying after any rate; there is none but the Parliament can effect a thing of that Nature, and you see what the last Parliament got by attempting it, they blew up themselves with their own Fire.

Johnson. Indeed Mr. *Bays*, you were the first that ever spirited the People against their own Representatives: No Age, no Chronicle can produce a parallel Instance hereof; and 'tis very strange, that such a People as those of *England* should be let into so fatal an Error, the consequence of which must be the Destruction of their Civil Rights. I can't tell what Fault could be found with that Parliament, unless their being zealous for their own Rights as they were a Parliament, and for the Peoples Rights as they were their Representatives, may be accounted a Crime.

Bays. Do you think it was not a Crime in them to commit the five *Kentishmen* for petitioning?

Smith. For insulting the Parliament you mean. Suppose, Mr. *Bays*, when you were a Regent in the Treasury, if a body should have petitioned that Board, and directed you in insolent Terms, how you should manage the Nation's Cash, and have told you that your Reign was blemished by many Mismanagements; would you have acquiesced with such a Petition, and granted the Prayer thereof? If a Man speaks reflecting Words against a Peer, and is prosecuted and imprisoned for the same upon *Scandalum Magnatum*; shall the greatest Authority in *England* want a Power to punish Men that fly in the Face of that Authority?

Bays. They have too much Power, and their Wings ought to be clipt, when they fly in the Face of such Men as my self. You see what they got by that Job; our Friends in the City improved it to a Miracle, and made it ring all the Kingdom over. This was a good handle for us to take hold on: The other Calumnies we raised against them the Mob took upon Trust; and whither cant welead them, when they never examine into the Truth of what we say? But this of the 5 Worthies wae so apparent, that it made 'em swallow down all the Lies we gave 'em before, without straining.

Johnson. When you cried up the *Kentish* Men at that rate, I remember you told us that the County of *Kent* would elect 'em all Members in the next Parliament, and that the Freeholders of the County had petitioned two of 'em to stand for Knights of the Shire; but I find neither of 'em elected by the List.

Bays. Prithee, that was said only to amuse the Mob, to elevate and surprize, and all that: for we know at the same time they were not Men of that Reputation in their Country, as we pretended; and what did it signify to us?

us? we made use of them only for our own Interest; They were the Make-a-noise-*Toms* of that County, brave forward Fellows, and bold in the Cause, and they got a good Dinner from the City, and I can't tell what from the Court, for that piece of Knight-Errantry.

Smith. I find, Mr. *Bays*, your Cause, as you call it, is chiefly supported by Lying and Falshood: I can assure you I have a very mean Opinion of such a Cause, and the Partizans of it.

Bays. This Cause, Mr. *Smith*, was ever supported after this manner; for ours is no new Cause, but an old one got into new Hands: Whoever misled their Prince, betrayed their Country, and rob'd the Nation of its Wealth, had recourse to the same Methods: Did not they lie as well as we? Did they not make Sham Plots, and suborn Men to swear People out of their Lives? And since the Revolution, did *Hamden* in the Treasury, or the Whigs in other eminent Posts prefer honest Men any more than my self? And as to Parliamentary Enquiries, have not People in all Reigns managed Parliaments for the Interest of the Prince and his Ministers, whose Interest and Inclinations were always the same? Were not Members brib'd in *Charles* 2*d*'s time by Pensions, to such a degree, that when an Account was demanded of the numbers of those mercenary Members, Sir *Stephen* could reckon between 40 and 50 by his Memory? This indeed was a thing so abominably exploded in former Reigns, that we durst not attempt it so barefac'd in this; but we had recourse to a genteeler Method, by giving them Places of Profit and Trust, so that we had 2 or 3 Salary Parliaments one after another.

Smith.

Smith. So by these Methods has our Nation been brought into this languishing Condition: for you never consider'd whether the Person was qualified for the Office, but whether he was a Member of Parliament. Now if he were a Fool or a Knave, and by that means injur'd the Nation in his Office, he was no way accountable: He could not be called to an account by the Court; he voted for his Place, and they could expect no more of him than to answer the Ends for which he was made an Officer. If he were accused before Parliament, he was there tried by his own Party; so that publick Frauds and Cheats went unpunished, and those that endeavoured to discover them were ruined for their Pains. But pray, Mr. *Bays*, how came you to lose that Interest in the House of Commons, and to let the Country Party get the Ascendant over you?

Bays. To tell you the Truth of the matter, we grew too impudent in the House, and also made too bold with the Nation's Cash. In the House I used to talk all, and had the Assurance to say in my Speeches, that I spoke the Sense of the major part of the House. The Country Party were scandaliz'd at this, as if there had been a Fellow-feeling betwixt me and the major part of the Members before-hand. Then our extraordinary Embezlements in Offices were too apparently scandalous: Commissioners at 500 *l. per Annum* Salary, could live at the rate of 1000 *l. per Ann.* and yet in a very few Years make Purchases of 40 or 50 Thousand Pounds: Clerks at Fourscore and 60 *l. per Ann.* could purchase Estates of twenty Thousand Pounds; nay, our very Footboys and Menials, that we had made Door-keepers and Underlings, could huff Gentlemen, and make Purchases. In a w ord, the whRevenue sunk, the Funds became

became deficient, the National Debts were unpaid, Poverty reigned every where, and Plenty appear'd no where but at our own Tables, and in our own Houſes. This created grumbling in the Country, and none were pleas'd with our Actions in the City, but the Stock-Jobbers; and in fine, the whole Nation was appriſed of our Miſmanagements, and choſe ſuch a Parliament as would do them Juſtice. Now my Breech began to make Buttons; I dream't of nothing but Impeachments, Attainders, Poll-Axes and Gibbets, and would willingly have compounded, thrown up my Offices, and have gone off with what I had gotten; but there were ſo many private, beſides publick Piques againſt me in the Houſe of Commons, that there was no likelihood of an Accommodation.

Johnſon. Indeed, Mr. *Bays*, I thought you in very indifferent Circumſtances when the Partition Treaty was condemned by both Houſes; I thought you then routed Horſe and Foot, there ſeemed no way for you to eſcape.

Bays. Nor indeed had there been a way, had not our ſtanch Stock-Jobbers in the City and other places ſtood firm to our Intereſt: Theſe exercis'd their Talent of Lying to a Miracle, on our behalf; ſo that you ſaw we turned the Tables upon the Commons, and made the People believe that thoſe very Perſons in the Houſe who proſecuted us with moſt vigour, were the chief Enemies of the Kingdom, and had a deſign to dethrone the King, and reſtore K. *James*. You can't tell what abundance of Mony this Affair coſt us, not a little Libeller againſt the Parliament but had a ſnack of us; light come, light go: But to keep *Jack How* out of *Gloceſterſhire* coſt us the Devil and all of Mony; but our Fortunes, which

which were made by Bribery, muſt be ſupported by the ſame Methods they were acquired.

Johnſon. Well, Mr. *Bays*, I find I have not been miſtaken in my Opinion of the Management of publick Affairs; we have ſenſibly felt the Effects of it. But, Sir, have none of you at the Helm any conſcience how you ſteer the Ship of State? If you ſplit her upon the Rocks, are you not in as much danger of drowning as any of the common Sailors, won't you ſhare in the public Ruin of your Country? And what will all your ill gotten Gain ſignify, if you cannot land it ſafe aſhoar?

Bays. Gentlemen, we are provided for the worſt, no Tempeſts nor Hurricane of Fate, but thoſe Tornados that riſe in St. *Stephen's* Chappel, can overſet our Navigation: The *Boreas's* that ſit in that Houſe, if they are unanimous, may blow us to the Devil; but nothing elſe can hurt us. In all other Caſes we are provided with Planks to get ſafe aſhoar: We have got Mony enough under King *William* to make our Peace, if King *James*, King *Lewis*, King *Turk*, King *Devil* ſucceed him. This is our Sheet Anchor, at which we can ride ſecure of all Storms and Tempeſts in all Reigns and Revolutions whatſoever.

Smith. Then, Mr. *Johnſon*, you and I are in a ſhitten Condition; we have been ruined for our Country in the late Reigns, we have been ſtarved for our Country in this Reign, and we may be hang'd for our Country in the next Reign. On my word we have made a fine Kettle of Fiſh on't: No Penny, no *Pater noſter*. We loſt all our Mony formerly, and have got none now; for which very reaſon it ſeems we may be very decently tuck'd up when time ſhall ſerve.

Johnſon.

Johnson. For this very reason, Mr. *Bays*, you ought to give us something considerable; for it is a pity, that after all our suffering and starving, we should be hanged at last.

Bays. Look ye, Gentlemen, I know you both to be so damnably sower'd against the Ministers, that you'l never be reconcil'd to us: The 13 years we have kept you starving will still stick in your Stomachs; and let me tell you, the Mony that is honestly gotten by a Salary will never do the business; and what is worst of all, you come in at the Fag-end of the Market. The Cheaters won't be able to keep open shop long; for I find by the Position of the Parliamentary Planets, we are just come to a Crisis. And besides, you don't know the Terms upon which we admit men into Offices: You must abjure the Interest of your Country, as Witches abjure Jesus Christ, when they contract with the Devil: You must deny the Authority of Parliaments, which I know are your Idols: You must bely, slander, backbite, asperse your own Father, if he be against the Interest of the Court: In a word, you must come over without reserve, you must be thoroughly changed, and become new Creatures; and this I know is a difficult thing, considering the Inflexibleness of your Tempers, whose Notions are become natural, and are constituent parts of your *Compositum*: 'Tis as impossible for you to change your Tempers, as it is for you to create your selves anew, which if it were in your Power, I believe you would make your selves the same resolute and stubborn Creatures you now are.

Johnson. Indeed, Mr. *Bays*, you are in the right on't; we shall not now be afraid of hanging, who have come so often near the Gallows. We have many years encountred Poverty, the most formidable Enemy in the World, and we cannot fear a less Enemy. You'l find at all times our Virtue will be a better support to us than your Money will be to you. I can assure you I can go to bed at night with a hungry Belly, and yet can sleep as well as K. *William*, or

any King in *Europe*: My Conscience is not disturb'd with black Thoughts of my ill Services to my Country, I am not alarm'd in the silent Hours of the Night, with the imagined Sounds of weeping Orphans and Widows who are now starving, whose brave Heads of their Families were lop't, to make a Bridg for K. *William* to come to the Imperial Crowns of these Kingdoms; I never look behind me adays to see if the Ghosts of murdered Patriots follow me; I have nothing to mourn for, but the distressed Condition of my Dear and Native Land, and to see her in the Hands of bold Invaders like your self. Indeed, Mr. *Bays*, I would not change Conditions with you, could my Circumstances in the World possibly be worse than they are.

Smith. Mr. *Bays* I suppose does not believe one Word of what you say. For my part, Mr. *Bays*, I am the merriest Man in Affliction of any in the World: I know I am basely and ungratefully dealt with, my Honesty has brought me very low; but I know that's none of my Fault, but my Virtue. I am rejoiced to see a poor meagre Wretch in an Office fretting his Guts to Fiddle-Strings in contriving how to cheat the Nation, and to see him miserable in the midst of all his Riches. I always laugh when I see a debauched Monster in a Chair, tormented with the Gout or Pox, and not able to stand upon his Legs; being allowed that to pamper his Lust, which should have fed the hungry Bellies of Men of Probity and Honour. When I am minded to divert my self, I go to the Coffee-houses in the City, where I always meet with a parcel of Mortals drinking of Ninny-Broth, and exercising their vicious Talent in lying and railing against the Parliament; I could wish with all my Soul, that every one of these Blockheads had a Saddle at his Back, provided it were not to descend to their Posterity, who could not help their Parents having long Ears nor wearing Packsaddles. No, Mr. *Bays*, I am not left quite comfortless, I make a Virtue of Necessity; but what rejoices me most of all is, That one time or other I shall see some of

you

you topping Sparks brought to Punishment for the Injuries done our Nation; this I am certain of, for Justice tho it comes slow, it comes sure.

Mr. *Bays.* Well Gentlemen, I commend you: like Madmen you please your selves with Fancies. I desire none of your Entertainment, I can't feed upon such thin Diet: I think I shan't starve and pine my self, when I can feed on the Fat of the Land: I shan't eat Bread and Cheese, when I can command Venison out of any of the King's Parks; but I must confess sometimes I am disturbed in my Mind, which makes my stomach a little squeamish, when I reflect upon my Carriage towards better Men than my self; and I can assure you were I to act my Part over again, I would quite alter that Scene.

Johnson. Tho I am a Sufferer by the Revolution, and am never likely to meet with a Reward, yet I should have rejoiced, had it been for the Advantage of my Country.

Bays. Why, Sir, have you not a better King than the former King?

Smith. Yes, Sir, we have; but who helped you to this King? Was it not such Men as Mr. *Johnson* and my self? Ay, say the City-Whigs, we have now a good King; but did they ever yet commend the good People, that brought this good King to the Throne? But if we have got a good King, I think we are not much mended in our Ministry, they are generally the same or worse. Now do you think, Mr. *Bays*, that the *English* Nation will ever again be at the Charge of a Revolution, only to make the Court-Stagers face about as they were? Or do you think that such Men as I must be us'd as Scaffolds to be pull'd down when the House is built?

Johnson. I fancy, Sir, you took in some of those old Courtiers, to teach you the Art and Mystery of Cozenage; for you can never pretend that they could be serviceable to this Government, considering they always were avowed Enemies to those Principles upon which it is founded.

Bays. Gentlemen, you are quite mistaken, it was but

Prudence to make a Miniſtry of the moſt able Stateſmen of both the former Reigns, that the World might be ſatisfied in the Miniſtry of *England*.

Johnſon. During the Reigns of the two former Kings, able Men were neither neceſſary nor deſired; thoſe Kings wanted Tools for Arbitrary Deſigns, mere Jack-hold-my-Staffs that would be the Cyphers of Government, and let the Popiſh Prieſts make the Sum; for able Stateſmen, where were they, or where are they? Had we any in thoſe Reigns capable of writing a Commentary upon the Horn-Book, except *Halifax*, who has left us a few Jingles of his Policy, whoſe Title I think I ſhould have ſcorn'd to have worn, tho his Eſtate had been thrown me in as Paper and Packthred into the Bargain? For the New Ones, I am altogether unacquainted with their Learning or Parts; I know not the Univerſities they were bred at, nor their Knowledg in the Sciences; I judg of their Skill in State Affairs, by the effect of their Management upon the Publick, by which I make but ſlender Concluſions of their Judgment. And for their Honeſty, with the Blind Man, I wiſh I could ſee it.

Bays. Certainly Gentlemen, you are quite diſtracted: Will neither old nor new Miniſtry pleaſe you? For God's ſake what would you be at? You rail at us all.

Johnſon. No, no; we only reflect upon the bad Men of both Miniſtrys, only upon ſuch who get into the Government, as Spunges do into Liquor, to ſuck it dry. We recriminate on ſuch who have betrayed our Country for two Reigns together, and now put themſelves in the way to clench the Nail in this Reign, which they drove in the t'other; upon thoſe Creatures who preach'd up Paſſive Obedience in *Charles* and *James*'s Reigns, and thoſe who now preach up the Doctrine of a Conqueſt for the ſame End and Purpoſe. If you had not talk'd of Standing Armies and other Inſtruments of Slavery, we had not been awakened to enquire into your evil Deſigns againſt our Liberties; and then rewarding of ſuch Men with Places and

Preferments, plainly shewed your Love to those Principles, and your Hatred of the opposite Party.

Bays. Well Gentlemen, I find the main difference betwixt us is Rewards; and if we had eas'd you in that Affair, I suppose we might have been easy in all the rest.

Smith. Not so neither, we are not to be brib'd: but what can we say of a Ministry, that neither rewards nor punishes; or rather that punishes the greatest Criminals with the Rewards that are due to the greatest Sufferers?

Bays. The Sufferers are so numerous, that we had not wherewithal to gratify them.

Smith. The Criminals were as many, and yet you found ways to gratify them: Would not the *Irish* and *English* Grants have gone a great way towards it? If those Grants had been thus applied, I am of Opinion the Parliament of *England* would never have resumed them. The very Grant given to Mrs. *Villers* would have rewarded above 100 Sufferers at 200 *l. per Ann.* each, and would thereby have secured as many Families in the Interest of *England*, which now in all Probability are likely never to be; for few Children will tread in their Fathers Steps to their own Destruction, they'l remember what Treatment their Parents met with, and think of the Gratitude of Courts.

Johnson. And suppose the *English* Grants had been bestowed after the same manner, with all the Offices in the Kingdom, how many thousand Men of Merit would have been rewarded by that means?

Bays. Look ye, Gentlemen, we have seen our Error, and will reward such Men for the future, if we can find 'em out.

Smith. I'll put you in a way to do that, one 3*d* part of 'em you may find in the Prisons of the Fleet, the Kings Bench, *&c.* another 3*d* part are Absconders for fear of getting into a Goal, and t'other 3*d* part are subsisting upon the Charity of those Friends that lent 'em Money in the late Reigns to purchase their Pardons, which Money our Gracious Government has not yet enabled 'em to repay.

Bays.

Bays. Truly, Sirs, one great Reason of their Non-admittance into Offices, was because they were not capable of Business, most of 'em not being bred to Accounts and Business: tho they are honest Men, yet you know every honest Man can't make a Mouse-Trap.

Johnson. Nor tell a Story of a Mouse neither: But I hope they understood Accounts as well as *J. P.* and the rest of the Commissioners of Prizes; and why could they not prefer an Honest Fool, as well as a Knavish one?

Bays. Besides, they understood nothing of Gentility: Do you think a King's Court must be crowded with Bumpkins?

Johnson. Must we all be Beaus then, that come to Court? Can't a Man inherit his Majesties Favour, unless he wears a long Periwig? Is Scrape and Cringe Qualifications of a Statesman? Do you remember what our old *English* Bard *Withers* says of such Fellows?

If I should have been hung, I know not how
To teach my Body how to cringe or bow;
Or to embrace a Fellow's hinder Quarters,
As if I meant to steal away his Garters.
If any bow'd to me with Congees trim,
All I could do was stand and laugh at him.
Bless me, thought I, what will this Coxcomb do;
When I perceiv'd one reaching at my Shoo?

Bays. You can't imagin Gentlemen how awkard a Bumpkin looks at Court, and how much he is despised by us: The Country Squire that brought up the late Addresses, we receiv'd 'em indeed very Graciously; but as soon as their Backs were turn'd, Lord how we banter'd 'em. These Blockheads said, we are the Fellows that they live by, let 'em get into the Country and work for more Mony, we'l take care to spend it for 'em: We had woundy Sport with one Fellow, that brought 3 or 4 Addresses out of the *West*; his Nose was set on the wrong way, and every time we had good Diversion to play with his Nose before his Face. But mentioning Addresses, pray Gentlemen, what do you think of the Addresses against the Prince of *Wales?* Does not that Turn elevate and surprize, and all that?

Smith. Indeed Sir, I was surpriz'd to see a Body of Men, who hated K. *James*, address a Government in Mourning for him: you looked as if you were in Love with the *Welch* Bastard, when you paid so much respect to his Pretended Father.

Bays. Look ye, Sirs, I find you are altogether ignorant in the Methods of Courts, whose Gentility obliges us to pay respect to all crown'd Heads. If the Czar of *Muscovy* should die; nay if the Devil

vil himself should die, as he is Prince of the Infernal Regions, we are obliged to mourn for him. But, Gentlemen, to lead you into the Whim of Addressing, I must tell you, that we tri'd all ways possible to bring that Business about before that time. The Address at *Winton* and other Places were to the same purpose. Rot the Pr. of *Wales* for a Bastard! The Addresses were meant against the Parliament, of whom we were more in danger than of the *French* King, and the Pr. of *Wales* both.

Smith. Why the Parliament had settl'd the Succession in the Protestant Line, and upon a Foreigner too, according to your own Hearts Desire; the King was pleas'd with what they had done, and we thought they'd have sat, till the time by Law prescrib'd for their Dissolution.

Bays. Whatever you thought, I am sure had they not gone off as they did, they would have got our Heads off in another Sessions. And I'll assure you we are much beholden to the *French* King, in declaring the Pr. of *Wales*, in the happy Minute, for our Relief.

Smith. Sir, I fancy you and most of your Gang, are not so much against the P. of *Wales* as you pretend; otherwise you would have encouraged a Proof of his Illegitimacy and Imposture. By this you seem to keep *Bayard* in the Stable, and are hush in his Cause, that you may be able to speak in your own, if ever God for our Sins should suffer him to enjoy the Throne of his Pretended Father. I have read several of Mr. *Fuller*'s Books on that Subject. Pray, Sir, your Opinion of that Affair.

Bays. You know *Fuller* is a Fellow of no Credit, he was himself voted an Impostor by Parliament, and upon that Account stigmatized by Law in a Court of Justice.

Johnson. 'Tis true, he was so voted and so stigmatiz'd, but that Parliament mght as well have voted him a Dromedary, or a Hobby Horse, as an Impostor; for an Impostor is a Person that represents another Person that really he is not; but *Wm. Fuller* is the same individual *Wm. Fuller* as he was at the time of his Christening, and never pretended to the Parliament to be otherwise. He is beholden to his Jury for his being stigmatiz'd, which were a Parcel of Glorious Sparks; I make no question but they would have found him quick with Child, had the Parliament voted him a Woman. But, Mr. *Bays*, was it ever known before, that Members were Evidence at the Bar of what was transacted in their House? This was one good way to keep all Complaints from being brought thither.

Smith. I don't remember any one neither, that was prosecuted by Order of the House by the Attorny General, except himself,

which

which plainly shows, that some body was willing to make it evident, that there was no Proof of the Illegitimacy of the Pr. of *Wales*.

Bays. Besides, Gentlemen, you know he has been Guilty of many ill things, as several Books against him demonstrate, and therefore ought not to have the Encouragement of the Court.

Smith. Suppose him Guilty of all that is suggested, why should that prevent a due Inquiry into the matter?

Johnson. But besides, I understand he has been very serviceable to the Government in divers Respects, too many to enumerate; and must he lose the Favour of the Court, because he fell under the Displeasure of the Commons? How came you to alter that Scene? those that fall under the Displeasure of the House now, are not treated after that manner. We can have your Legion Letters, your Stories of *Rome* and *Athens*, and 100 other Libels against the Parliament, in order to subvert our Constitution, publickly sold and dispersed without any Secretary of State's Warrant against either Authors or Publishers. Did you ever read the Poem, called, *the Generous Muse?* Is not there a fine piece of Stuff in commendation of K. *James*, and the prettiest Reflections in the World upon the Government, and no notice taken of it; when at the same time if a Body happen to make a Ballad reflecting upon a Foreigner, that has run away with more than all the Honest Men in *England* have got since the Revolution, the Author is brought into Jeopardy by Warrants and Presentments. This indeed, Sir, is a sure sign, that you have not so great an Aversion to the P. of *Wales* as your Noise about him would make us believe.

Bays. Gentlemen, is it common Prudence for us who have got large Estates under K. *William*, to appear too violent against one that has the least Pretension, tho never so unjust, to the Throne? would you have us mark our selves, that we may be known? No, our Business is to act so cunningly in one Reign, that we may set our selves in the way of Preferment in the next. But my Watch says, 'tis past 11 a Clock, and I have made an Assignation at 12 with a thing in Petticoats, and must leave you; but at our next Meeting shall endeavour to bring you over.

Johnson. Mr. *Bays*, we thank you for this Condescension, but take this from me till I see you next, that you and the rest of your Gang, as you have been the Ruin of the best Men in *England*, so are by this means the greatest Enemies to K. *William* and his Government: and so Farewe'.

FINIS.